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Town Topics

'Mr. Sam' Speeds Past 75

By Marie McNair

WAS SAM Rayburn's face red yesterday!

It was, but the Speaker of the House wasn't covered

with embarrassment. He was covered with lipstick kisses from all the ladies wishing him "Happy Birthday" at the cocktail party in his honor given by fellow-



Texans, Dale Mrs. McNair and "Scooter" Miller at the Women's National Democratic Club.

Yesterday, "Mr. Sam" was 75. And it has been the custom for the last few years for the Dale Millers to celebrate the event.

This year tradition was broken for the first time.

The Speaker had his birthday dinner this time—always turkey, turnip greens and coconut cake—with his nephew Robert T. Bartley, and Mrs. Bartley and the Speaker's sister, Mrs. Samuel Bartley.

FOR THE last 36 years, "Mr. Sam's" favorite menu had been prepared by Mrs. J. L. Aston whose husband was the Speaker's oldest friend. They served in the Texas legislature together from 1911 to 1913. Then Mr. Aston came to Washington as aide to the late Senator Morris Sheppard.

Mrs. Aston, now a widow, carried on the custom until she returned to Texas several months ago.

But the Speaker is a man who doesn't forget. He said yesterday, "I had a birthday dinner with her before I left for Washington."

THERE WAS a beautiful birthday cake at the Millers' party to celebrate the Speaker's diamond jubilee. It was covered with gold icing, festooned with the yellow rose of Texas, and was spotlighted in a frame of green leaves from which sparkled tiny electric bulbs, sparkling like diamonds.

Songstress, Hank Fort was there to sing "Happy Birthday, Mr. Sam," the song she composed in the Speaker's honor.

It was a great day for the

Democrats. Practically all of the Texas delegation was there with their wives and even a few Republicans! Representative Joe Martin was among the first to arrive.

Sen. Lyndon Johnson, wearing a navy blue shirt and blue and white tie with his gray tweeds was giving and getting the glad hand all over the place. Rep. and Mrs. Olin Teague, Rep. and Mrs. Homer Thornberry, Rep. and Mrs. Clark Thompson, Rep. and Mrs. James Wright were all there and Mrs. Albert Thomas came without her husband who's nursing a cold.

CHIEF JUSTICE Earl Warren was alone—he's expecting Mrs. Warren and Virginia back from California later this week. Justice and Mrs. Stanley Reed came and the only two ambassadors I saw were Austrian Ambassador and Mme. Gruber and the Italian Ambassador Manlio Brosio and Signora Brosio.

EDGAR MORRIS, Mrs. Randall Hagner and the Bernard Gallaghers were among the hosts' Republican friends. Senator Richard Russell, looking in the pink; Serfaty and Mrs. John McClellan, former Senator Tom Connally of Texas, and Mrs. Connally were there and there was a kissing bee going on whenever Mrs. Walter George moved a step.

Saw Mrs. Max Gardner, the Carroll Cones, Mrs. Virgil Peterson, Mrs. Frederick Mitchell Gould, Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Biffle, Lieut. Gen. and Mrs. Charles P. Cabell, Maj. Gen. and Mrs. Leigh Wade, Mrs. Morris Cafritz, Mr. and Mrs. John Davis, Mrs. Julian Gillespie, Mrs. Brison Norris, Brig. Gen. Lester Dessez, Deputy Chief of Protocol, Victor Purse; Mrs. Robert Guggenheim, Mme. Vladimir Rybar, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Schenck, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Pittman, Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Mode and Mrs. George Holmes.

"Scooter" Miller must have been told a hundred times how pretty she looked in her strapless red taffeta bouffant dress, a Christmas gift from her husband; and how delicious the Texas chili and chicken curry dip was on the buffet!

until after the Inauguration. Then she's off to "Coquaine," her winter home in Nassau.

On Saturday Mrs. Whitten and her daughter, Mrs. Lewis MacCracken, gave a cocktail party at the Sulgrave Club for the friends they've known since Francine MacCracken made her debut and married Lewis.

Lewis, naturally, was at the party and so were his parents, the Bill MacCrackens, and their daughter, Nell.

It was a "homey" party with time for talking and sitting and room enough to move about.

MRS. WHITTEN looked like a picture in Vogue in a long black satin sheath and a hat fashioned of cascading black satin petals. Francine, who loathes to wear hats, didn't. Her black cocktail dress had a high neckline with bracelet length sleeves.

Col. and Mrs. Snowden Fahnestock, who also have a place in Nassau, were there. The Press Counselor of the Italian Embassy and Signora Paresce said they've moved from the house in McGill terrace that they'd had for several years for the easier living in an apartment on 29th st. near the Sheraton-Park.

Mrs. Emlen Davis and her son-in-law and daughter, the Fontaine Brouns, were there. Rahel wore an enormous cartwheel ostrich feather hat. Next in size was Mrs. Conger Pratt's circle of blue ostrich.